

Philip HALFYARD

No Memorial

Philip HALFYARD was baptised on 11th October 1785 at Rockbeare, near Exeter¹ (or 9th October 1785 according to England, Select Births and Christenings 1538-1975; www.ancestry.co.uk). He was the son of Richard Halfyard and Sarah (née Sander).¹

Philip was a Confectioner who lived, as an adult, in Cathedral Close and died "Of the Cholera" on 11th August 1832.² He was buried on the same day, aged 45 years, in Exeter Dissenters' Graveyard.³ His last Will and Testament, prepared the day before his death, is short and to the point. He left all his personal and real Estate to William Henry Canterbury, Accountant, in Trust to be divided, equally, between his "surviving sisters".⁴

It is not known when Philip trained or became a Confectioner but the 1803 Exeter Militia List showed him as an Apprentice Bookseller, apprenticed to Philip Hedgeland, and was "Willing to serve".

Philip's parents, Richard and Sarah, were married on 17th August 1774 at Whimble Parish Church. Both were resident in Whimble at that time.⁵

Richard was baptized on 20th May 1750 at Whimble. His parents were Richard Halfyard and Mary (surname unknown).⁶ Sarah was baptized on 2nd August 1750 at Whimble. Her parents were John Sander and Sarah (surname unknown).⁶

Besley's 1828 Exeter Itinerary and General Directory listed three people named Halfyard. Richard Halfyard, a Sedan Chair Lender living in Catherine Street, is geographically the closest to Cathedral Close.

Assuming that we have Philip's father correct, the following newspaper articles, published in the Exeter and Plymouth Gazette, Saturday, 21 June 1834, are interesting:-

1. NEAT SEDAN AND WHEEL CHAIRS, "RICHARD HALFYARD returns his sincere thanks to the Nobility, Gentry and Inhabitants of Exeter and its vicinity, for the support he has received during the last 23 years, and begs to inform them that he has Disposed of his Establishment to JAMES LAVERCOMBE, for whom he solicits a continuance of their patronage.
2. JAMES LAVERCOMBE begs to inform the Nobility, Gentry and Inhabitants of Exeter and Vicinity that he has Purchased of MR RICHARD YALFYARD the SEDAN CHAIRS and PORTERING ESTABLISHMENT, and has Removed the name of FERRIS'S PASSAGE, 218, *High Street, two doors below the Fish Market* and hopes (by the practice he has had with Mr. HALFYARD upwards of twelve years, and by bringing punctual to orders, with careful and sober Assistants) to merit a support so many years bestowed on his predecessor.

As far as can be ascertained, Philip had four siblings, all female:-

Prudence - according to the 1851 Census, born circa 1781 in Feniton. At that time, she was living at 22 Clifton Street, Exeter, with her sister, Elizabeth. Prudence died in 1853 in Exeter.⁷

Elizabeth - baptized on 23rd December 1783 at Rockbeare.⁸ The 1851 Census showed her living with her sister, Prudence, at 22 Clifton Street, Exeter, aged 62, born in Rockbeare. She was a Fund Holder. Both Prudence and Elizabeth were shown as unmarried. Elizabeth died in 1857 in Exeter.⁹

Jane - baptized on 29th January 1793 at Rockbeare.⁸ The Halfyard family tree on www.ancestry.co.uk shows that she married John Bickle, a farmer of Thrushelton but no evidence to show that this is the correct Jane has come to light, e.g no record of her parentage in respect of the marriage.

Martha - baptized on 21st October 1798 at Rockbeare.⁸ She married George Groves on 15th July 1828 at St Giles Without Cripplegate, London.¹⁰ The 1861 Census shows her (Martha Groves, a Widow) living on a Small Annuity in Bartholomew Street, Exeter, aged 62 years. Martha died in 1876 in Exeter.¹¹

Research, at this stage, indicates that none of the five children of Richard and Sarah had children of their own. Also, there is a ten year gap between the birth of the first three children and the last two, which is unusual.

Yvonne Hensman
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Sources

1. Devon Baptisms Rockbeare, Devon (www.findmypast.co.uk)
2. Exeter and Plymouth Gazette 18 August 1832 (www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)
3. Burial Register held at Devon Heritage Centre
4. Estate Duty Office Will ref.1078/IRW/H/27 (Devon Heritage Centre)
5. Devon Marriages, Whimble (www.findmypast.co.uk)
6. England, Births and Baptisms 1538-1975 (www.findmypast.co.uk)
7. E&W Civil Registration Death Index 1837-1915, 3rd Quarter, Exeter, Vol5b. p.60 (www.ancestry.co.uk)
8. England, Select Births & Christenings 1538-1975 (www.ancestry.co.uk)
9. E & W Civil Registration Death Index 1837-1915, 1st Quarter, Exeter, Vol5b. p.62 (www.ancestry.co.uk)
10. London, England, Cof E Marriages and Banns 1754-1932 (www.ancestry.co.uk)
11. E&W Civil Registration Death Index 1837-1915, 4th Quarter, Exeter, Vol5b. p.69(www.ancestry.co.uk)